



# SFM Report

*December 2005*

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*Protecting life and property through the development and application of fire prevention engineering, education and enforcement*

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## **CHIEF'S MESSAGE**



**Ruben Grijalva**  
**California State Fire Marshal**

In recent months, the "Message from the Chief" has focused primarily on disseminating as much information as possible on our effort to adopt the IBC and IFC. As we approach the end of the year, I am pleased with the workgroup's progress, and look forward to the Core Group convening in January to review the workgroup's efforts towards making

the final recommendations to this office. We've all acknowledged the tasks ahead will be among the most challenging recently faced, but I'm confident that if we stay true to our course, we will succeed in crafting the best State building and fire codes to date. This month, however, I would like to take the opportunity to share with you two pieces of legislation that were signed by Governor Schwarzenegger and will become effective on January 1, 2006. These new laws address providing emergency exiting information at selected ticketed live events and a pilot program for Adult Residential Facilities for Persons with Special Health Care Needs.

I'm pleased to provide you with this information and would encourage you to not only view both bills in their entirety, but to share this information with your staff and your local FPO organizations.

**AB 1194** was authored by Assemblymember Oropeza. This bill added Section 13113.6 to the Health and Safety Code to read:

*13113.6. (a) Any person, or public or private firm, organization, or corporation, that owns, rents, leases, or manages a facility that hosts a ticketed event for live entertainment shall make an announcement of the availability of emergency exits prior to the beginning of the live entertainment.*

*(b) As used in this section, "facility" means a building or portion of a building having an assembly room with an occupancy load of less than 1,000 persons and a legitimate stage for the gathering together of 50 or more persons as defined pursuant to Division 2 of Section 303.1.1 of Title 24 of the California Code of Regulations (California Building Code of 2001).*

The bill, in its entirety, may be seen at the following website:

[http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab\\_1151-1200/ab\\_1194\\_bill\\_20051005\\_chaptered.pdf](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/asm/ab_1151-1200/ab_1194_bill_20051005_chaptered.pdf)

In 2003, fires occurred in two separate nightclubs in two separate states, bringing national attention to fire-safety standards for entertainment venues. Assessments undertaken after the Rhode Island night club fire (the ninth deadliest public assembly fire in United States history) revealed that most patrons reacted instinctively to the emergency and sought exit from the same door in which they entered, largely ignoring three emergency exits on the other side of the venue. In an effort to overcome

the panic that ensues in a fire, this measure requires entertainment venues to announce the location of emergency exits before each event. The required announcement proposed by this bill does not include the location of the exits. The language merely requires that attendees be notified that exits are available.

**SB 962** was authored by Senator Chesbro. This bill adds and amends several sections in and around the 1500 section of the Health and Safety Code relating to community care facilities and developmental services. The entire bill may be viewed at this website address: [http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/sen/sb\\_0951-1000/sb\\_962\\_bill\\_20051005\\_chaptered.pdf](http://www.leginfo.ca.gov/pub/bill/sen/sb_0951-1000/sb_962_bill_20051005_chaptered.pdf)

The main points of SB962 are:

- A pilot licensed category called “Adult Residential Facilities for Persons with Special Health Care Needs”, (ARFPSHN) is created.
- These are Community Care facilities, licensed by the California Department of Social Services, Community Care Licensing and are monitored by:
  - Department of Developmental Services
  - Regional Centers
  - Community Care Licensing
- These facilities provide 24-hr care to up to five adults with developmental disabilities.
  - As the clients will be relocated from Agnews Developmental Center, the pilot facilities will only be located in Santa Clara, Santa Cruz,

Monterey, San Benito,  
Alameda, Contra Costa,  
San Francisco, Marin and  
San Mateo counties

- All facilities are required to install and maintain an automatic fire sprinkler system, approved by the State Fire Marshal and that meets the requirements of NFPA 13D.
  - The bill specifies that a local jurisdiction shall not require a system exceeding this standard
  - The bill also specifies that a public water agency shall not interpret this as changing the status of a facility from a residence entitled to residential water rates, nor shall a new meter or larger connection pipe be required of the facility.
- All facilities shall provide an alternative power source to operate all functions of the facility for a minimum of six hours.
  - Specified testing procedures, maintenance intervals, and documentation requirements are also specified in the bill.

This bill is sponsored by the current Administration to implement a key feature of the closure plan for Agnews State Hospital. The Agnews Closure Plan was proposed in January 2005 as part of the Governor's Budget, and is scheduled to close by July 2007. If your jurisdiction is in one of the identified Bay Area counties, please be sure your

staff is aware of the main elements of this bill. Notwithstanding the additional requirements in this bill, if you receive an inspection request for an ARFPSHN, it would be classified as a Group R, Division 2.1.1 Occupancy and all other requirements appropriate for the classification would apply. If you have any questions regarding this bill, please contact the SFM Regulations Coordinator, Deputy Daniel Najera at (916) 324-9592 or at [dan.najera@fire.ca.gov](mailto:dan.najera@fire.ca.gov)



**Vickie Sakamoto**  
**Chief, Fire Engineering**

I am pleased to announce the appointment of Vickie Sakamoto as the new Division Chief of Fire Engineering for CDF/Office of the State Fire Marshal. Vickie has been the

Supervising Deputy State Fire Marshal of the Fire & Life Safety Division (North) for the past 6 years. Prior to that assignment Vickie was a Deputy State Fire Marshal III Specialist. Vickie has worked for the department for 16 years. She brings a wealth of experience and expertise to her new position.

As the Division Chief of Fire Engineering for the CDF/Office of the State Fire Marshal, Vickie will oversee the following statewide programs;

Fireworks  
Investigations  
Motion Picture and Entertainment  
Automatic Systems / Fire Extinguishers  
Building Materials Listing  
Laboratory Accreditation  
Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)  
Flame Retardants

Vickie has one son, Christopher, who is 12 years old. Vickie enjoys running and outdoor sports when she is not at work, recently participating in her second marathon. She is active member with her church.

Vickie will be a great asset to the department's Leadership team. Please join me in congratulating Vickie on her appointment  
([vickie.sakamoto@fire.ca.gov](mailto:vickie.sakamoto@fire.ca.gov)).

Make sure to visit Chief Grijalva's webpage, "From the Chief" for recently posted information.  
<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/fromthechief.html>

## **FIRE & LIFE SAFETY DIVISION**

## **Code Interpretations**

All requests for interpretations are to be sent to Joe Garcia, Division Chief, Fire and Life Safety Division South at:

Office of the State Fire Marshal  
602 E. Huntington Drive, Suite A  
Monrovia, CA 91016  
Tel (626) 305-1908  
Fax (626) 305-5173  
[Joe.garcia@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Joe.garcia@fire.ca.gov)

For additional information, please visit the SFM webpage under "*How to request a code interpretation from the SFM*"

## **CALIFORNIA ALL INCIDENT REPORT SYSTEM (CAIRS)**

If you have any questions regarding this program, please contact:

Penny Nichols  
Staff Services Analyst  
Tel. (916) 445-8435  
Fax (916) 445-8459

## **FIRE ENGINEERING**

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#### **Flame Retardant Program**

The Flame Retardant Program is currently processing renewals of Limited Applicator licenses for the Christmas tree season; please contact Debbie Vehrs at [http://debbie.vehrs@fire.ca.gov](mailto:debbie.vehrs@fire.ca.gov) with any questions regarding the renewal or new application process for Limited Applicator licenses. All other renewals have been processed for the Chemicals, Fabrics and General Applicators. Those

lists are updated on our website and may be accessed at: <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/flameretardant.html>. The testing of new fabrics and or materials is continuously being completed at our lab in Ione. Should there be any questions regarding this program please contact Marc Yepez at [marc.Yepez@fire.ca.gov](mailto:marc.Yepez@fire.ca.gov).

### **Building Materials Listing (BML)**

The SFM Fire Alarm Advisory Committee met on November 16, 2005 at the State Fire Marshal's Office in Sacramento. The website will be posting a "draft" of the meeting minutes. The website may be accessed at <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/advisory.html>

For further information you may contact Darcell Hermann, Staff Assistant at (916) 445-8370 or [Darcell.hermann@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Darcell.hermann@fire.ca.gov)

We would like to remind you that although we list many products and materials, there are only two (2) *required* to be listed and approved by the State Fire Marshal; fire alarm equipment and devices [H&S Code 13114(b)] and wood shakes and shingles for roofs [H&S 13132.7((j)(1)]. Other products and materials are strictly voluntary. The BML website may be accessed at <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/bml.html>.

Should there be any questions regarding this program please contact:  
Diane Arend  
BML Program Coordinator  
Tel (916) 445-8396  
Fax (916) 445-8458  
[diane.arend@fire.ca.gov](mailto:diane.arend@fire.ca.gov).

### **Automatic Extinguishing System Program**

All businesses that test or service automatic fire extinguishing systems, including but not limited to, fire sprinkler systems, engineered and pre-engineered fixed extinguishing systems, standpipe systems, and water flow alarm devices must first be licensed through the Office of the State Fire Marshal, or the Contractor's State Licensing Board.

The SFM Automatic Extinguishing Systems Advisory met November 16, 2005. Check the web site for new agenda and draft minutes from previous meeting. The website may be accessed at <http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/advisory.html>

Should there be any questions regarding this program please contact:

James Parsegian  
Supervising Deputy  
Tel (916) 445-8415  
Fax (916) 445-8459  
[james.parsegian@fire.ca.gov](mailto:james.parsegian@fire.ca.gov)

### **Portable Fire Extinguisher Program**

Program staff is in the middle of renewals for both company licenses and Certificate of Registration. Renewal notices have been sent to 513 companies and 2240 certificate of registration holders. Licenses and Certificate of Registration will be sent out by 12/31/05.

The SFM Fire Extinguisher Advisory Committee met November 15, 2005 but did not have a quorum. Check the web site for the agenda and draft minutes from previous meeting. The website



may be accessed at  
<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/advisory.html>

Should there be any questions regarding this program please contact:

James Parsegian  
Supervising Deputy  
Tel (916) 445-8415  
Fax (916) 445-8459  
[james.parsegian@fire.ca.gov](mailto:james.parsegian@fire.ca.gov)

### **Investigations Unit**

The Fire Engineering Investigators are always available to assist the local fire departments.

This unit has extensive background in the following areas of investigating:

- ✦ Fire Extinguisher Fraud
- ✦ Pyrotechnics
- ✦ Fire Works Display

This unit offers training for all of these subjects and tailors the training to the department's specific needs.

Should there be any questions regarding this program please contact:

Tony Guevara  
Investigator  
Tel (916) 327-8278  
Fax (916) 445-8459  
[tony.guevara@fire.ca.gov](mailto:tony.guevara@fire.ca.gov)

Mark Yepez at [mark.yepez@fire.ca.gov](mailto:mark.yepez@fire.ca.gov)

### **Fireworks**

The fireworks enforcement hotline is (888) 399-3632 or (888) FWX ENFC. This 24 hour number is to report seizure of illegal fireworks or information related to the sales, use or storage of

illegal fireworks. You may access updated version of the Fireworks Seizure Information Form at:  
<http://osfm.fire.ca.gov/pdf/fireengineering/fw/fwsi/form.pdf>

Should there be any questions regarding this program please contact:

Tony Guevara  
Investigator  
Tel (916) 327-8278  
Fax (916) 445-8459  
[tony.guevara@fire.ca.gov](mailto:tony.guevara@fire.ca.gov)

### **Certified Unified Program Agency (CUPA)**

On August 23-24, and August 30-31, statewide Unified Program representatives from Cal/EPA, DTSC, OES, OSFM, SWRCB respectively conducted full program evaluations of Yuba and San Mateo County's Department of Environmental Health. These evaluations are conducted at least every three (3) years to assess the effectiveness of enforcing the state Certified Unified Program Agencies' (CUPA) hazardous materials and hazardous waste regulations and to determine any deficiencies in implementing the requirements of the regulations. At the conclusion of the evaluation, a document called Summary of Findings is issued to the program agency. It summarizes and lists our observations, findings, deficiencies of the program and our recommendations toward improving their program.

Statewide agency representatives from OSFM, Cal/EPA, OES, DTSC, SWRCB conduct unified program evaluations of local County Environmental Health

Department and Fire agencies regarding the Certified Unified Program Agencies (CUPA) Hazardous Materials program. The state Fire Marshal's office specifically review the Hazardous Materials Management Plan and Inventory Statements of each regulated business within a county to ensure that the elements of the California Fire Code is incorporated in the CUPA plans, permitting and inspection program.

The OSFM CUPA Coordinator participates in training, regional board, advisory group and planning meetings. OSFM is one of the major contributors in the success of the annual Cal/CUPA Forum conference usually held in February each year.

Should there be any questions regarding this program please contact:

Francis Mateo  
CUPA Program Coordinator  
Tel (916) 324-0232  
Fax (916) 445-8459  
[francis.mateo@fire.ca.gov](mailto:francis.mateo@fire.ca.gov)

Should there be any questions regarding this program, please contact:

Daniel Najera  
Senior Deputy  
Tel (916) 324-9592  
Fax (916) 445-8459  
[Dan.najera@fire.ca.gov](mailto:Dan.najera@fire.ca.gov)

## **CODE DEVELOPMENT**

### **SFM's Regulatory Notice Distribution List**

Anyone interested in being added to the SFM's mailing list or email distribution list for proposed rulemaking activities, please provide the following information:

- Name
- Address
- Email
- Telephone number
- Subject matter interest